

Dear Teacher or Principal,



The Indiana State Tree Farm Committee strongly encourages the development of quality outdoor education classrooms. Without a doubt, classes taught outdoors are experiences likely to remain in the minds of students for many years. We are pleased to sponsor a contest to recognize the Outstanding Outdoor School Classroom each year. This is the 32nd year of running this prestigious award. Many of the State award winners went on to further awards.

What does the Tree Farm Committee look for in its selection? Although "tree" is in our name and we do look for forest use and management in the curriculum, an existing woods is not needed to qualify for the award. We are more interested in how you are developing a curriculum around the natural resources you have. A major consideration will be that there is a curricular emphasis on use and management of natural resources. We believe it is essential that students learn how our natural resources are used to provide us with all of the products we use every day. We can't have houses, furniture or paper without cutting trees; we can't feed an expanding population without modern agricultural practices; we can't build and drive automobiles without mining the earth's minerals. But we can't expect all of these resources to sustain us indefinitely without proper management. Human impact on the earth is too intense to simply let nature take its course in replenishing resources without active human management. This is a message our young people must be taught if they are to carry on as responsible stewards of the land.

We like to see a well balanced program that goes beyond simple awareness and identification. It should include consideration of soils, water, wildlife, energy and, of course, forestry, and how these resources can be managed for production, recreation, aesthetics and other benefits. We also like to see a program used in many different subject areas and at many different grade levels. It may seem that we are expecting a great deal, and we are--we are looking for the most outstanding outdoor lab program in the state.

Initial judging will be made at the District Tree Farm Committee level, and district finalists will have an on-site evaluation conducted by the selection committee. Completed applications should be mailed to the Chairperson of the District Committee (see map attached to application) in which the school is located. Applications should be returned to District Committee members by June 15. District committee members will select district winners and then on-site evaluations of District winners will occur in September. A check for \$50.00 along with a district winner certificate will be presented to each district winner. From the district winners the State Outdoor Classroom will be selected.


Any school is eligible to receive the State award once, and schools not winning the award are encouraged to reapply. The school with the most outstanding

classroom will be awarded two solid walnut plaques along with a \$500.00 check from the Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association (IHLA) and a letter of appreciation from Senator Richard Lugar. The first plaque will be engraved with the name of the school and the second plaque is reserved for the person who has been most responsible for guiding the outdoor lab's development. The State award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc. in February. We also will arrange for the winning school to make a presentation at the HASTI convention in which the winning school can highlight their school's achievement.

If you are aware of an outdoor lab that stresses multiple use resource management, your efforts in nominating the school for this award will be greatly appreciated. If you need additional copies of the application, please contact any one of the District Tree Farm Chairpersons listed on the attached map. Should you have any questions, please contact your local representative of the State Tree Farm System or any member of the Indiana State Tree Farm Committee.

We look forward to the opportunity to coming and visiting your school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Burke".

Robert Burke, Chairman
State Tree Farm Committee

(See following pages for application)

OUTDOOR LABORATORY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sponsored by:
THE INDIANA STATE TREE FARM COMMITTEE
(2008)

School System _____

Name of School _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Superintendent _____

Principal _____

Primary Outdoor Lab Contact _____

Contact Phone Number _____

Number of years outdoor lab program has been established _____

Number of teachers using outdoor lab _____ % of total teachers _____

Number of students using outdoor lab _____ % of students using lab _____

Entry Instructions

- 8 1/2" x 11" paper only
- Total materials not to exceed 1" three-ring binder
- No video or audio tapes accepted
- Please include directions and map to school site

In each of the following categories check all items that apply to your school's outdoor lab program. For each item checked please include a narrative and indicate part # and letter (e.g., IIa.). Support material is optional, but if utilized put corresponding support material after each part (I, II, III).

All material becomes property of the Indiana State Tree Farm Committee. If you wish your entry returned please indicate in a cover letter.

Entry is due by June 15, 2008 to your Tree Farm District Forester (see attached sheet).

Part I – The Facility

- ☐ a. Students are involved in the further development and maintenance of the outdoor lab.
- ☐ b. Outdoor lab is used throughout the entire school year.
- ☐ c. Outdoor lab is used to demonstrate use and active management of the resources available.
- ☐ d. Outdoor lab has a written plan for development, operation and maintenance.

Part II – Curriculum

- ☐ a. Written conservation education curriculum is developed (attach copy of curriculum and any related evaluation material, not to exceed what will fit in a 13" x 17" envelope).
- ☐ b. Curriculum was designed by a committee of instructors from the school or corporation.
- ☐ c. Program makes use of local natural resource professionals.
- ☐ d. Curriculum includes use of a supplemental program or programs such as Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project WET, etc. (please name programs and describe how they are used, but do not send photocopies of activities from the books).
- ☐ e. List grade levels and subject areas utilized in the outdoor lab.

Part III – Overall Program Administration

- ☐ a. An established committee for outdoor lab and curriculum development (list members' names and positions).
- ☐ b. Number of times committee meets per year and what involvement committee has in the lab.
- ☐ c. A teacher resource library for conservation education materials is established.
- ☐ d. Teachers are made aware of new conservation education materials and in-service training.
- ☐ e. Professional days are provided for teachers to attend in-service training in conservation education.
- ☐ f. Some form of continuing education credit is available to teachers attending in-service training.
- ☐ g. Formal instruction specific to the use of the outdoor lab is provided to teachers.
- ☐ h. One or more people area assigned time specifically for development and/or teaching of conservation education.
- ☐ i. Community members are involved in the outdoor lab/conservation education program.

(See next page for map of Tree Farm districts)

INDIANA TREE FARM DISTRICTS

District Chairman

#1 Steve Winicker
District Forester
Kankakee State F&W Area
P O Box 77
N Judson, IN 46366
(574)896-3538

#2 Larry Lichtsinn
District Forester
3879-B New Vision Rd
Bldg D
Ft Wayne, IN 46845
(260) 482-3047

#3 Don Stump
State Administrator
District Forester
P O Box 119
Henryville, IN 47126
(812) 294-4306

#4 Mike Coggeshall
District Forester
7240 Old Forest Rd SW
Corydon, IN 47112
(812) 738-7694

#5 John Stambaugh
Consultant Forester
Route 1, Box 1756
Springville, IN 47162
(812) 863-7272

#6 Stewart Turner
Consultant Forester
 8464 S 950 E
 Upland, IN 46989
 (765) 998-1161

#7 Bob Burke
State Chairman
Consultant Forester
2896 Centennial Road
Martinsville, IN 36151
(317) 342-3851

